

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08
ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /100 W
-----161830Z 067001 /43

O R 161722Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5266
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1147

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, SHUM, UR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION -- SOVIET ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS
LEADER

REF: GENEVA 1063

1. WEO GROUP MET IN TWO MEETINGS FEB 16 TO
DISCUSS FURTHER MOVES IN HRC ON MATTER OF ARREST OF
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN USSR. GROUP WAS UNANIMOUSLY OF
THE VIEW THAT, HAVING IN MIND TENTATIVE TIMETABLE AS
EARLIER APPROVED BY COMMISSION (GENEVA 974), BEST ITEM
TO RAISE MATTER WOULD BE ITEM 9, DEALING WITH FURTHER
PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. GROUP
MEMBERS ALSO DECIDED THAT TIME WAS A HAND TO CONSULT
THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON SPECIFIC ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE
PROPOSED BY WEOS UNDER THIS ITEM.

2. USREP (LOWENSTEIN) ASKED GROUP TO DISCUSS WHAT
KIND OF ACTION WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING
POSSIBILITIES OF RESOLUTION OR TELEGRAM. GROUP
DECIDED THAT TENTATIVE TEXT OF A TELEGRAM SHOULD BE
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REFERRED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR AUTHORITY TO USE IN
DISCUSSING POSSIBLE APPROACHES WITH MEMBERS OF OTHER
GROUPS, AND ADOPTED TWO ALTERNATIVE TEXTS AS BASES TO
NEGOTIATE. FINAL DECISION ON WHICH TEXT TO USE WOULD
BE DETERMINED AFTER SOLICITING VIEWS OF DELEGATIONS
FROM OTHER GROUPS.

3. FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF THE TELEGRAM AND ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE AS DRAWN UP AD REFERENDUM BY THE GROUP:

QTE. THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, CONVENED AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION, MINDFUL OF ITS DUTY TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT REPORTS OF ARREST AND DETENTION IN THE USSR OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CAUSE OF PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. DESIRING URGENTLY TO RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER, THE COMMISSION WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR WOULD REPORT AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE REPORTED ARRESTS AND ANY FURTHER PROCEEDINGS. UNQTE.

4. FOLLOWING IS AN ALTERNATIVE FINAL SENTENCE TO THE DRAFT TELEGRAM WHICH WOULD SUBSTITUTE THE UN SECY-GENERAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE TELEGRAM:

QTE. ...DESIRING URGENTLY TO RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER, THE COMMISSION REQUESTS THE SECY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO REPORT AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY ON ANY INFORMATION HE IS ABLE TO OBTAIN ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE REPORTED ARRESTS AND ANY FURTHER PROCEEDINGS. UNQTE.

5. USDEL REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS
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POSSIBLE. ANOTHER WEO GROUP MEETING TENTATIVELY SET FOR LATE AFTERNOON FEB 17.

6. COMMENT. MOOD OF WEO GROUP SEEMS BROADLY POSITIVE AND DETERMINED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ARREST ISSUE. THERE IS, OF COURSE, A SPECTRUM OF ENTHUSIASM WITH AT THE ONE END THE CANADIANS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC, AND AT THE OTHER END THE SWEDES, WHO APPEAR INTERESTED IN SPECIFIC ACTION ONLY IF ASSURED OF MAJORITY SUPPORT IN ADVANCE, THOUGH THEY SAY THEY WILL VOTE YES IF PROPOSAL SIMILAR TO TEXT ABOVE COMES TO A VOTE. THE UK DELEGATION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SILENT, ASSERTING THAT IT IS AS YET WITHOUT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, BUT IS NOW SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROPOSED TEXT. USDEL DISAGREES WITH SWEDISH VIEW RE NEED FOR ASSURED MAJORITY IN COMMISSION BEFORE ACTION PROPOSED. IN USDEL'S VIEW PURSUIT OF OUR GOAL OF EVENHANDED CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HRC REQUIRES CALM SUPPORT FOR REASONED WEO-SUPPORTED PROPOSAL EVEN IF SOUNDINGS

INDICATE THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CARRY. IN THIS EVENT
WE WOULD AT LEAST ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF RECORDING
IN SPECIFIC TERMS OUR CONCERN OVER A SERIOUS HUMAN
RIGHTS PROBLEM AREA. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, HUMAN RIGHTS, ARRESTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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